

10 years of the UNESCO Chair of Sustainability at UPC

1993- 1995

A group of UPC lecturers and professionals working in various fields (Miquel Barceló, Enric Carrera, Juan Martínez, Joaquim Gascón, Josep Burcet and Josep Xercavins) suggested holding an international conference to reflect on the role of technology in development.

As a result, UPC organised the International Conference on Technology, Sustainable Development and Imbalance, which was held in Terrassa from 14 to 16 December 1995.

1996

Steps were taken to bring about the creation of a UNESCO Chair at UPC to deal with technology, sustainable development, imbalance and global change. The following people played a significant role in this phase: Pere Duran i Farell, Jaume Pagés Fita and the autonomous government of Catalonia's then Commissioner of Universities and Research.

10 May 1996. Agreements on the creation of the UNESCO Chair of Sustainability were signed in Paris between UPC and UNESCO and between UPC and the autonomous government of Catalonia.

Josep Xercavins became the first director of the UNESCO Chair.

The College of Industrial Engineering of Terrassa (EUETIT) housed the UNESCO Chair's headquarters.

The Second Global Problematique Education Network Initiative Workshop was organised.

Mihajlo Mesarovic became the first UNESCO visiting lecturer.

The first UNESCO Chair website was created.

1997

The postgraduate programme A Multidisciplinary Analysis of the State of the World began to be taught.

First and second cycle subjects were offered for the first time.

The first final thesis was supervised at the College of Industrial Engineering of Terrassa.

The book *¿Sostenible? Tecnología, desarrollo sostenible y desequilibrios* (Sustainable? Technology, Sustainable Development and Imbalance) was published. This book includes the papers given at the International Conference on Technology, Sustainable Development and Imbalance.

1998

The first edition of the *Sostenible?* journal was published.

The first edition of the Catalan translation of the *UNDP's Human Development Report* was published and presented.

The Fourth Global Problematique Education Network Initiative Workshop was organised.

The first set of optional subjects on European Engineering in Relation to Globalisation and Sustainability was offered at the EUETIT as part of the Socrates-Erasmus programme.

The process of citizen participation in the Environmental Audit of Terrassa was organised.

1999

The first edition of the UNESCO Chair Papers collection was published.

The first postgraduate course on Energy for Sustainable Development began.

The UNESCO Chair taught the first subject at UPC in video conference format.

The Viladecavalls Environmental Audit was prepared.

2000

The UNESCO Chair's doctoral programme on Sustainability, Technology and Humanism began to be taught.

UPC's first distance-learning multimedia subject, Environment and Technology, began to be taught.

The distance-learning specialisation course on System Dynamics began to be taught.

The first edition of the Master's Degree in Sustainability started.

The UNESCO Chair organised the accreditation and IT management system

for the social consultation on cancelling foreign debt. One million people in Spain participated in this consultation.

The Debt Watch was created.

2001

The Catalan Earth Charter Committee was formed.

The UNESCO Chair housed UBUNTU's (the World Forum of Civil Society Networks) Ad Hoc Secretariat.

The first Debt Watch website was created.

The book *La consulta social del deute extern a Catalunya* (Social Consultation on Foreign Debt in Catalonia) was published.

The Chair managed the Agenda 21 process in Sant Boi de Llobregat.

2002

There were changes in the UNESCO Chair's organisation. The lecturer Enric Carrera took over from the lecturer Josep Xercavins.

The Prize for Quality in University Teaching was awarded to the Chair by UPC's Board of Trustees.

The Prize for Sustainability was awarded by the Association of Industrial Engineers of Barcelona.

2003

The oral defence of the first doctoral thesis from the doctoral programme took place.

The Chair participated in the URB-AL project on Renewable Energies and Employment Opportunities.

The first Master's Degree in Energy for Sustainable Development was offered.

The first annual UNESCO Chair report was published.

A Le Monde Diplomatique publication stated that Debt Watch was a global reference centre on foreign debt issues.

2004

The UNESCO Chair's research and doctoral spaces were opened at the Vapor Universitari in Terrassa.

The first issue of the *Contra@rguments* collection was published.

The UNESCO Chair was included in the Latin American Network of Urban Environmental Research.

The UPC Research Group on Sustainability, Technology and Humanism was approved.

The First Working Session on Measuring Sustainability was organised.

Debt Watch published *Informe sobre el deute extern a l'Estat espanyol* (Report on Foreign Debt in Spain).

The book *La sostenibilitat del desenvolupament Andorra* (The Sustainability of Development in Andorra) was published.

2005

The UNESCO Chair became part of the FLACAM Network (the Latin American Forum of Environmental Sciences).

UPC's Board of Governors approved the UNESCO Chair becoming a basic unit of UPC.

The Chair participated in the URB-AL project on Renewable Energies and Local Development Networks.

The Second Conference on Measuring Sustainability was organised.

A study was carried out on future sustainability scenarios in Terrassa.

The third edition of the Master's Degree in Sustainability was taught.

The book *Desarrollo sostenible* (Sustainable Development) was published.

2006

The Chair participated in the ALFA project on Sustainable Technologies for Water Purification and Wastewater Treatment, part of an academic cooperation programme between the European Union and South America.

New UNESCO Chair and Debt Watch websites were created.

The First International Conference on Sustainability Measurement and Modelling was organised.

The first issue of the International Journal of Sustainability, Technology and Humanism was published in e-format.

The oral defence of the fifth doctoral thesis from the doctoral programme took place.